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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/695,942	10/30/2003	Andrew B. Jones	45444	6287
29180	7590	12/14/2004	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD, & LLOYD LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			FOSTER, JIMMY G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3728	

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/695,942	Applicant(s) JONES ET AL.	
	Examiner Jimmy G Foster	Art Unit 3728	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 19 and 23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1) Claims 19 and 23 are allowed.

2) The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States

(e) the invention was described in

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3) Claims 1, 9 and 10 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Grossman et al (6,347,796). It is noted that the limitation, regarding the positioning of the game controller begins with "whereby." The term "whereby" is broad enough to mean "by means of which." Therefore, the game controller is treated as intended use in claim 1 and not as structure. The "whereby" clause constitutes a functional limitation and not a structural limitation. See In re Mason, 114 USPQ 127. MPEP 2114 discusses how functional/intended use limitations are to be treated with respect to the prior art.

The Reference of Grossman et al discloses a video game case which holds a hand-held video game and which may be considered to be a packaging. Insofar as Applicant has claimed, the case of Grossman et al includes a first

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section at the portion of case 12 not including the flaps 16,18, and includes a second section at the flaps 16,18.

Regarding Applicant's claims 1, 9 and 10 (as incorporating the amendment of claim 1), although the reference of Grossman et al does not disclose two directional devices being covered while a button is exposed, the case of Grossman et al is inherently capable of holding a controller which includes two directional devices located to be covered by the a portion of section 12 and which includes a button which is exposed, such as by the cut-out 14, thereby meet in Applicant's functional language.

Regarding the limitation in claim 10 which calls for an opening through which the controller is adapted to extend, Figure 2B of Grossman et al shows an opening 13 created when the flaps 16,18 are opened through which a portion of a controller may extend. Inasmuch as the base of the case may be considered together with the flaps to define a section, the opening may be considered to be located between the first and sections of Grossman et al, insofar as claimed by Applicant.

4) The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5) Claims 2 and 3 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grossman et al (6,347,796) in view of Weatherford et al (5,435,447). Although the reference of Grossman et al does not disclose the

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case as being transparent plastic, the reference of Weatherford et al at col. 1, lines 15-18 suggests that a package/case may be made of transparent plastic for the purpose of viewing the content through the package material so that the content may be seen without removing the content from the package. Accordingly, it would have been obvious in view of Weatherford et al to have made the case/package of Grossman et al of transparent plastic for the purpose of viewing the content (i.e. a controller) through the material of the case.

6) Claims 4-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Regarding claims 4-17, the controller is considered to be claim structure, and the reference of Grossman et al does not disclose or fairly suggest the video game as having two directional controllers which are capable of being covered while a game button is exposed.

7) **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

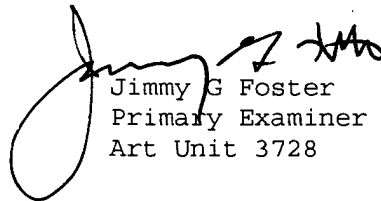
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advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy G Foster whose telephone number is (571) 272-4554. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:45 am - 5:15 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.


Jimmy G Foster
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

JGF
9 December 2004